

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00
NSCE-00 INRE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 EPA-01 CEQ-01
OES-06 TRSE-00 L-03 H-01 /064 W
-----081833Z 075153 /43

O R 081839Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0376
INFO FAA BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 06794

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: EAIR, FR, UK, US
SUBJ: CIVAIR: PORT AUTHORITY POSTPONEMENT OF
CONCORDE DECISION

1. INITIAL FRENCH REACTION TO PORT AUTHORITY
DECISION ON CONCORDE AS REFLECTED BY EARLY
MORNING NEWS BROADCASTS WAS LARGELY NEGATIVE AND
SUBJECT OF CYNICAL COMMENTARY SUCH AS PORT AUTHORITY
HAS ONCE AGAIN EVADED ITS RESPONSIBILITIES, US
INDUSTRY PRESSURE GROUPS HAD CLEARLY
GOTTEN TO PORT AUTHORITY,
FRENCH AND BRITISH WERE NOW TO BE KEPT WAITING
INDEFINITELY, ETC. THIS TONE WAS ENCOURAGED BY
TAPED INTERVIEW ON THESE SAME BROADCASTS WITH GILBERT
PEROL, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF AIR FRANCE, WHO DENIED
FLATLY KNOWLEDGE BY AIR FRANCE MANAGEMENT OF ANY
NEW PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO PORT AUTHORITY,
WHICH THUS SUGGESTED THAT INDEED PORT AUTHORITY
HAD SEIZED ON SOME FLIMSY PRETEXT TO POSTPONE ITS
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DECISION YET ONCE AGAIN.

2. WE WERE INFORMED OF PORT AUTHORITY DECISION
IN PHONE CALL DURING THE NIGHT FROM PATTARINI,
DIRECTOR OF AVIATION AT PORT AUTHORITY, WHO READ
US TEXT OF DOCUMENT DELIVERED TO PORT AUTHORITY
EARLIER IN THE DAY BY GOODELL, US COUNSEL FOR

AEROSPATIALE, AS WELL AS TEXT OF PORT AUTHORITY'S
SUBSEQUENT DECISION THAT WAS RELEASED TO PRESS.

3. CONCERNED OVER THIS FRENCH REACTION TO
POSTPONEMENT OF PORT AUTHORITY DECISION WHICH
SEEMED LIKELY FOSTER YET MORE MISUNDERSTANDING UNLESS
PROMPTLY CORRECTED, WE SAW FIT TO INCLUDE FOLLOWING
PARA IN "STATEMENT" BY AMBASSADOR TO BORDEAUX/TOULOUSE
DELEGATION HE RECEIVED MARCH 8 AM (SEPTTEL),
AND WHICH WE RELEASED TO PRESS: QUOTE:
THE PORT AUTHORITY YESTERDAY ANNOUNCED FURTHER
POSTPONEMENT OF ITS DECISION AFTER RECEIVING
EARLIER IN THE DAY FRENCH AND BRITISH PROPOSALS
FOR NEW NOISE ABATEMENT PROCEDURES THAT COULD
LESSEN THE IMPACT OF CONCORDE NOISE AT KENNEDY
AIRPORT. TECHNICAL DISCUSSION OF THESE PROPOSALS
WILL NOW TAKE PLACE. INSTEAD OF CRITICIZING THIS
NEW DELAY AND ATTRIBUTING IT TO MOTIVES THAT MIGHT
IN FACT HAVE NO BASIS IN REALITY, I THINK
THAT DELAY, WHICH I HOPE WILL BE SHORT, SHOULD BE
WELCOMED IF IT MAKES POSSIBLE EARLY AGREEMENT
ON PROCEDURES THAT WOULD OVERCOME THE OBJECTIONS
OF THE NEW YORK LOCAL AUTHORITIES. UNQUOTE.

4. WE CHECKED WITH AIR FRANCE TECHNICAL STAFF
AND LEARNED THAT THEY WERE IN FACT QUITE UNAWARE OF
GOODELL'S SUBMISSION TO PORT AUTHORITY AND NEW
OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES THAT WERE THE SUBJECT
THEREOF. WE FURTHER TOOK ADVANTAGE LUNCHEON
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WITH MME. RIVOAL OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS STAFF
AT AIR FRANCE TO EXPRESS REGRET AT IMPRESSION
PEROL'S INTERVIEW MAY HAVE CONVEYED TO
FRENCH AUDIENCE AND FACT THAT AIR FRANCE AND
AEROSPATIALE SEEMED TO BE HAVING SOME DIFFICULTY
GETTING THEIR SIGNALS STRAIGHT.

5. SUBSEQUENTLY WE HAVE SEEN ON WIRE SERVICES
REACTION TO POSTPONEMENT OF PORT AUTHORITY DECISION
BY PRESIDENT GISCARD AND FOREIGN MINISTER DE
GUIRINGAUD WHICH, LIKE OUR REACTION, SEEKS TO
GIVE MORE UPBEAT REACTION TO POSTPONEMENT OF
PORT AUTHORITY DECISION. INTERVIEWED BY FRENCH
RADIO ON MARCH 8, PRESIDENT GISCARD SAID DELAY
COULD BE PUT TO GOOD USE BY FRENCH AND BRITISH

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GOVERNMENTS TO ADD STILL FURTHER TO THE CONCORDE
DOSSIER AND ALL MEANS OF PERSUASION AND ARGUMENT
WOULD BE RESORTED TO DURING THIS PERIOD. GISCARD
EXPRESSED OPTIMISM OVER THE OUTCOME AT NEW YORK
AFTER THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT, SAYING: "IF THE
DECISION WAS TO HAVE BEEN UNFAVORABLE IT WOULD
HAVE BEEN TAKEN." AFP REPORT STATES GISCARD
EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OVER REASONS FOR PORT
AUTHORITY'S ACTION IN POSTPONING ITS DECISION IN
ORDER GATHER MORE INFORMATION ON THE KEY QUESTION
OF CONCORDE NOISE LEVEL. DE GUIRINGAUD,
INTERVIEWED IN BRUSSELS FOR FRENCH RADIO, ALSO SAID
GOF WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS NEW DELAY TO PRESS
HOME ITS ARGUMENTS WITH THE PORT AUTHORITY.
DE GUIRINGAUD ADDED THAT IT HAD BEEN CONCLUDED
A BIT TOO HASTILY THAT CONCORDE COULD NOT SATISFY
NOISE STANDARDS AT JFK AND THEREFORE HE THOUGHT
THAT DISCUSSIONS COULD USEFULLY BE CONTINUED WITH
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THE PORT AUTHORITY ON THIS SUBJECT.

6. WE UNDERSTAND THAT FIRST TECHNICAL MEETING
BETWEEN PORT AUTHORITY AND CONSTRUCTORS, AND
FOR WHICH AIR FRANCE IS SENDING OVER ONE OF ITS
CONCORDE PILOTS, IS TO BE HELD NEW YORK AFTERNOON
MARCH 9.
RUSH

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